Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue #104 September 2009

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Issue 104 - September 2009 www.igkt.net

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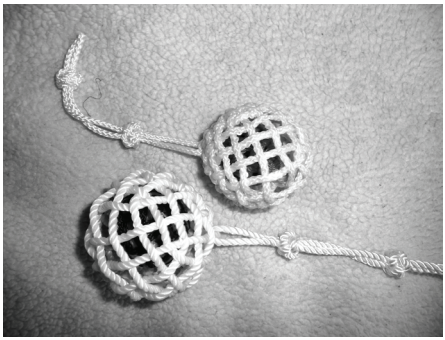
COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front:

The article here is described very capably by Barry Brown - see page 14. Great job and highly detailed - I hope to see it soon in person! Ed..

Back:

This fascinating drawing by member Brian Jarrett reminds us that sometimes a knot is not really a knot, but perhaps a hitch? Boa, constrictor, hitch - an excellent piece of work - thanks Brian! It will form the front cover of a knot manual he is now completing.



See **How I Did It** report & center pages

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From the Editor's Blotter

Satish Patki reminded us last time of the possible need for a "How I Did It" piece [my phrase, not his] from our members. Thinking this to be a good idea, I welcome your contributions - please do not feel shy about sending them in! We have some excellent contributions this quarter and I welcome your further contributions - thank you again for the suggestion Satish!

I am reminded by the letters in the mailbag for this issue that we each have our opinions and that much of what we might opine may not be shared in fact or belief by others. This does not mean they are wrong, nor that we are necessarily right. It just reminds me that we each have an opinion and that, to form that opinion, it is vital to have something against which to counteract or counterbalance it, so that our opinion has benefit or even perhaps merit.

This quarter I have tried to mix in a little of practical, a little of decorative and a little of surmise. I hope that you enjoy the material put in front of you. If not, and if you would like to see it changed, then change it by writing to the editor. Tell us of your deeds, your feelings, your "heard-on-the-grapevine" rumors or gossip. Let your fellow knot-tyers know what is happening in your part of the world and share with them what you have found interesting, exciting, dull and boring, or simply amazing about your knotting life. Inquiring minds want to know!

I have thought for many years that square-rigged ships are a repository of knots and things knotty. Here is a list of some of the knots used aboard the brig Pilgrim, now sailing off Catalina island and the Southern California coastline: clove hitch, buntline hitch, stevedore's knot, figure-eight knot, round, flat & racking seizings in wire and in seine twine, cleat hitch, belaying hitch, common whipping, palm & needle whipping, crown whipping, snaked whipping, little lump knot, matthew walker knot, overhand grafting, underhand grafting, French spiral whipping, moku whipping, 4-, 6-, 8-, and 12-strand crowning, eye, cut, short and long splices, sailmaker's splices, serving, wall and crown knots, manrope knots, carrick bends, leather chafe gear, baggywrinkle, half hitch, marling hitch, marlinespike hitch, lashings, trucker's hitches, rose lashings, lark's heads, halyard bends, marling, barrel slings, ooops! Out of space but not out of knots. What does this mean, I wonder?

Wishing you all good speed, fair words and photos, and fair leads.

Sincerely yours, **Lindsey Philpott**

IN REMEMBRANCE

This issue of your Knotting Matters sees another of our favourite members having passed away. The East Anglia Branch is again hit with another sad loss, this time of member Terry Watson of Terrington St. Clements, Norfolk, UK. He and his wife were keen supporters of the IGKT and he will be missed greatly.

Notes from the Mousepad

First, thanks to all of you who elected me to this post while I lay in my hospital bed rambling under the influence of morphine (though some say the morphine made no difference). I'll do my best to serve the Guild during my term of office.

I note that my immediate predecessor called his column "Notes from the Mouse Pad", and his predecessor "Notes from the Secretary's Blotter" - so I thought long and hard and came up with "Mouse Droppings" which, though it may be an accurate description, leaves a lot to be desired; so I'm sticking with "Notes from the Mouse-pad".

As a regular reader of the Web Forum, and an occasional contributor, I am aware that there are a lot of areas where the Guild could do more and better but I am also acutely aware that we are run by volunteers who have only so much time available. Involvement of the membership is therefore very important and something I hope to encourage.

To start with, the Trustees (ie Council Members) have to make an annual report to the Charity Commission in the UK, setting out our achievements for the last financial year. This has to be done by the end of October, along with lodgement of our accounts, and is now mandatory. Suffice to say that the report on last year will not carry the detail we would like. So in future please drop me a short note about your activities on behalf of the Guild at the time you undertake them – I'm looking for a couple of sentences only so that I can distil the material into something more meaningful (and to which our members and the public will have access on the Charity Commission website).

Finally I am looking to improve the Guild's central records and would appreciate it if all formally constituted Branches would send me an electronic copy of their up-to-date rules as approved by Council (and if they have not been approved please say and we can sort that out for the future). Informal groups do not need a set of approved rules but I would be grateful if they and Branches would let me have up to date contact details.

Barry

Letters to the Editor

The views expressed in reader's letters do not necessarily reflect those of the IGKT Council. The Editor reserves the right to shorten any letter as necessary.

Dear Sir
re: Budworth's Quibble

As part of the bombardment you asked for a small contribution. Ashley is a book to cherish. I inherited a pirate copy of the Graumont and Hensel and this book is in close reach to my reading chair.

But I agree firmly to the words of Pieter van de Griend as quoted by Geoffrey Budworth. The development in modern rope materials asks for research in how to use these materials. I would welcome articles about the modern splices available, which knots are most usefull etc.

As for the past and for now, new materials are available and how do we make the best use of them?

With kind regards

Ton den Boon
Dordrecht The Netherlands
[Ed - Ton's name is not in the latest edition of the Member's handbook - happy to hear from you!]

To the Editor:

I will employ the short moniker "Budworth's Quibble" in reference to Geoffrey's article of KM#102:16, in which he asserted that: The Ashley Book of Knots was an anachronistic repository of knots even in 1944; and, in today's world, there is little evidence of much knotting afloat; moreover, that it too strongly links knotting to sailors at the expense of others who knot. This drew four letters in KM#103:06-8; I also raised discussion of the topic on the IGKT forum. Here is my take on what has so far been written.
1) Robert Jackson reported his informal knotting inventory done on vacation in Venice; his conclusion is blunt: "nothing more than the odd half-hitch and I doubt seeing a bowline."
2) Louie Bartos, Ketchikan, concedes that ABOK is largely historical; but he says that at least some cadets on training ships will need knotting knowledge.
3) John Jamieson, who claims nearly five decades as a seaman -- with "five years in various types of fishing vessels" --, also concedes that ABOK "saves the knot-craft of a bygone way of life ...," but yet thinks that "seamen should be responsible for nine tenths of all recorded knots [!!], as Ashley claims." (Here, there's ambiguity: "responsible for" can mean "originated, developed, & recorded" or "have current knowledge of"; Ashley clearly meant the former, not that any given seaman could reproduce the whole lot.) John asserts that there was considerable rope work in the Refrigerated Cargo liners, that one needs a secure knot when "going aloft," that current seamen receive extensive training in knotting & splicing, and most "irrelevances" asserted in Budworth's Quibble are in fact relevant today.
Furthermore, we cannot let stand John's remark that "going to sea is one of the

few professions where knot-tying is a requirement," for we have only to look back (a decade plus) to KM#058:21 (Winter - January 1998) and Paul Evans's letter in which he cites his then near 3-decades of British Merchant Navy seamanship and position -- to wit:
> Part of my job is to help and train younger seamen to get their qualifications in seamanship. The governing body who sets the exams and who actually examine seamen is the Board of Trade. Their manual stipulates that to join two ropes of equal thickness you must use a Reef knot and to join ropes of unequal thickness you must use a Sheet Bend.

How can the Budworth's Quibble quibblers square this official seamanship stipulation with Ashley, who famously wrote "... under no circumstances should it be used as a bend [ends-joining knot]"!? This admonition did not go away but if anything became more urgent with synthetic cordage (though I've seen rockclimbers join nylon tubular tape with a Reef)! Yes, we can question the exam's stipulation. Paul as much does so himself, reporting that they are "taught three types of whipping: West Country, Palm & Needle, and Sailmaker's. While I have been to sea I have never put a West Country whipping on anything except for my exam." Sounds like useful instruction?

4) Finally, Forrest McDougall, of Wires Ropes & Rigging NZ, writes to "take [GB] to task over his quibble." Forrest claims 46 years at sea, prior to his current rigging business. He urges Geoffrey (et al.) to "take a stroll around any busy port ... and you will see ... the art and skills of the seafarer."

Which brings to mind our first correspondent's Venetian stroll, which had a conclusion contrary to that implied by Mr. McDougall. In replying to Budworth's Quibble, Mssr.s Jamieson & McDougall assert that in their many decades at sea, well beyond the publication of Ashley's work, one would and still can, find considerable knotting in play. This is what Budworth denied and which denial irked them. However, devoid of examples, we are left at "is so" v. "is not" -- score zero for enlightenment. They must answer Budworth's Quibble in knot-wise detail in order to be understood; and we others can provide confirming or counter examples. They need to articulate exactly what knotting IS currently done aboard, so that we can attempt to understand the activity (or to challenge the assertion by our own observations).

Well, what of others? Have you looked not (only) to books and on-line documentation of knotting, but "in the wild" (as one forum thread calls it)? What can others report of knotting knowledge in today's world? Consider that Ashley wrote prior to the advent of synthetic cordage, with newly developed materials and constructions; and largely the cordage with which he was concerned is now infrequently used.

I have scrutinized commercial-fishing (and other dockside) knotting on parts of the eastern seaboard of the United States. I concur in Budworth's Quibble. Much of what I have found is not what Ashley describes or would've recommended even, though some age-old structures are present (clove hitch, sheet bend, & bowline). At times, I almost gave up hope of finding either of the two competing "proper" ways to make a cleat hitch, among docks of small craft! Some things that I've found I've not seen recorded (e.g.: what I'll call a Reverse Groundline Hitch, as a mid-line binder of netting to perimeter lines).

We live in an era of capable recording and communication devices -- or now

we might simply say "device": the cell phone, which can photograph and post the photo to the World Wide Web! It's a good time for the knotting community to get out into the world of knots and make such documented observations (such was done by J.P. Escudeiro of his native Sintra, Portugal municipality in KM#098:32ff).

Dan Lehman

Falls Church, Virginia, U.S.A.

A Chuckle & a Nod at your Quibble

Captain Grey Chisholm
09 June 2009

I enjoyed reading Geoffrey Budworth's quibble in Issue #102 (March 2009) of Knotting Matters. I enjoyed it both with a chuckle at his ire and a nod of acknowledgment to some of his points. Think about it though, people write about what they know. Sailors write about nautical skills. Ranchers write about cattle and horses. Climbers have an entirely separate vocabulary for their knots and uses. We all write about what is important to us and in our own frame of reference.

I am a Master Mariner. I have been sailing professionally for 37-years and for pleasure since the paddle was taller than me. My father loves knots. He is an escapee from a goat farm and a former sailor in his own right. By the time I came along, my father was an "ex"-squid (ex-U.S. Navy) but he held on to his passion for knots. He taught all of his kids Marlinspike Seamanship as we became old enough to tie our shoes. He also shared his love of knots with other kids, teaching in Cub Scouts (Webelo Leader) and Boy Scouts.

I went to sea at age 17 where I learned more knots or variations of knots from my Uncle Ed commercial fishing salmon in Alaska. I did a hitch in the Coast Guard where I learned more knots and started leaving a trail of "Fancy Work" on each ship I sailed on. I attended California Maritime Academy where I trained under an ol' Boatswain who started his career sailing before the mast. Boatswain Paul Seiler still carried a passion for knots and still shared a childish wonderment when a fid salesman showed him a variation on old friend, adding a German Tuck to a standard eye splice. [More about this in the December issue - Ed.] I've lived on sloops and crewed or single-hand sailed a bit on both U.S. coasts. I went on to ocean towing where I put into practice knots that most only read about in books or play with in their living rooms. I continued my tradition of leaving behind fancywork during a few years on warships in the Navy. I then moved on to tankers where I sailed world wide.

Currently I am sailing Master on the USNS **BOWDITCH**, a U.S. survey ship sailing in the Far East and still tying and teaching knots. Therefore, I chuckled at Mr. Budworth's railing at the rich lore and traditions of knot tying at sea. I learned my skill at the knee of a sailor and furthered both skill and passion for knots on boats and ships from Alaska to Fremantle. I worked and learned from many an old salt, taught many a young (or not so young) mariner basic seamanship and loved the occasional encounter with a fellow Guild member. Seagoing knot tying is alive and well. On the other hand, Mr. Budworth has many good points. So I nod (or is that "knod") in acknowledgment at his complaints about the origin and use of knots ashore and giving credit where credit is due.

As in the later article on prehistoric knots in the same issue, knots have been with us since we had opposable thumbs, or at least for a very long time. Though my first memories of knots came while in a pireaux on Bayou Manchac, my family was a typical American mobile family, moving about the country often. Much of my early knot tying came from inland Boy Scout troops. Camping in Michigan, I learned how to tension a tent guy with a taughtline hitch. The tripod lashing I learned I still use today. I learned climbing knots at Outward Bound in Minnesota and in Maine. The Diamond Hitch fascinated me as the Camp Shaver guide prepared to take us into the New Mexico wilderness. In the late 60's, my greatest inspiration came from the book, **Leather Braiding** by B. Grant, which took most of its lore from cowboys and vaceros building horse tack. That book's knots were mostly in leather, rawhide and horse hair. One of my most-used knots I learned from a truck driver, the trucker's hitch (mostly self-taught, as I only saw it tied once and had to figure it out on my own).

Therefore, taking nothing away from the well deserved, rich lore and traditions of sea going knots – we do have to acknowledge and record the history and utility of land-locked "marlinspike" skills of ranchers, farmers, cowboys, truckers, riggers, and so many more land locked trades.

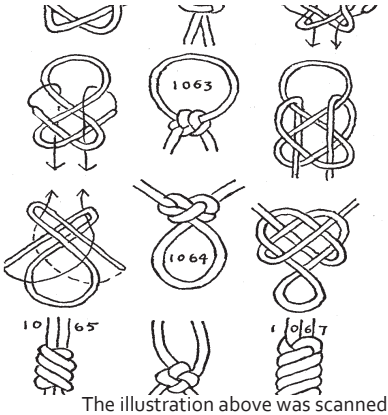
The Editor:

Browsing through Ashley, I noticed Knot #1064 described in the book as "much in common with a Diamond Knot." However, if you tie it exactly as shewn, and then pull the two sides of the loop apart, you will find that it has much more in common with the Carrick Bend which, in fact, it is.
Did Ashley realize this, I wonder?

This is the easiest method I know to tie the Bend. Incidentally, if you tie the knot with the ends inside the loop then you get a diagonal Carrick Bend.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Court
West Country Knotters



This may have either parallel or opposite ends. In either case, the loop should be given a right twist.

1062. A round, rigid loop with parallel ends. Tie a LEFT HALF KNOT, and tuck the ends progressively as indicated by arrows in the diagrams.

1063. Tie a LEFT HALF KNOT, lay it flat on the table, and give the loop a half twist to the right as shown in the left diagram. Reeve the ends first through the loop and then downward, as pictured.

1064. The knot given here has much in common with the DIAMOND KNOT, but if tied with more than two strands it is difficult to draw up. The two ends are splayed.

1065. A TWO-STRAND MATTHEW WALKER KNOT that is tucked several times. It is tied as described in Chapter 8 as ℵ777. In a similar way a loop may be started with any of the TWO-STRAND LANYARD KNOTS of that chapter, and any small ornament or implement may be ring hitched to the loop.

1066. The CHINESE CROWN LOOP is distinctive and decorative. The method of tying it is described as ℵ808 in Chapter 8.

1067. The SINNET KNOT described as ℵ757 is another LANYARD KNOT that, tied with two strands only, may be recommended for decorative use. The loop may be of any practical length. Another very handsome loop from the same chapter is KNIFE LANYARD KNOT ℵ787.

The illustration above was scanned from The Ashley Book of Knots, author Clifford W. Ashley, 1944, Doubleday & Company, Publishers, Garden City, New York.

10

Knotting Matters at Clare Priory Craft Fair

[sent July 16, 2009 – Ed]

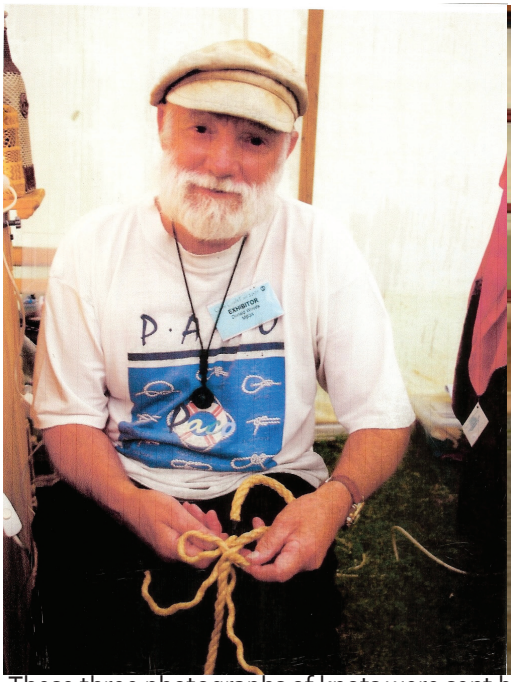
Mr. Donald Woods of Upminster, secretary of the Essex Branch of the International Guild of Knot Tyers, which he helped set up in 1982, was among the 135 exhibitors at last weekend's [July 11/12, 2009] annual Clare Priory Craft Fair in Suffolk, which attracted 10,000 visitors over the two days. He was there because knotting matters in our world today, just as it did in prehistoric times.

"There was a lot of interest at the show in this ancient art," Mr. Woods says. "Many people were surprised to learn how old it is. Many associate knot-tying with sailors in the navy who used to develop the art in their spare time. But tying knots is probably man's oldest invention. It is known to have been practiced in pre-historic times by cave dwellers who would have used some form of rope made from vines, vegetable fibre or animal tendons. I like to bring on novice tyers," Mr. Woods says. "We must not let this die out. It is an art, craft and science that is still needed and widely used today, such as in climbing, rigging and towing. It is also fascinating and very pleasurable."

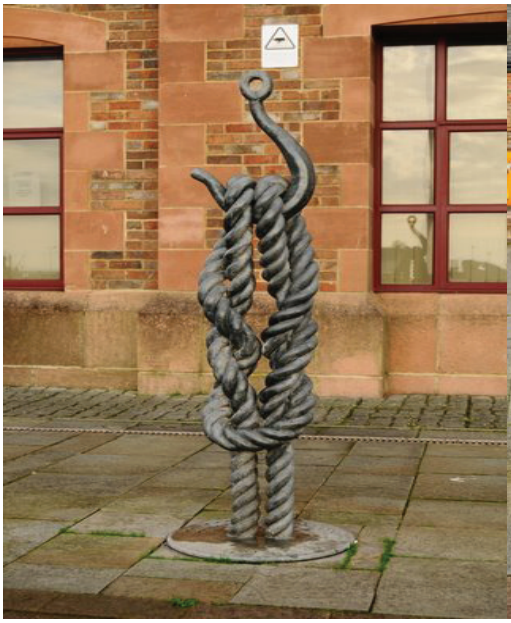
Donald Woods is a retired French polisher. He took up knot-tying as a hobby in 1982 after reading a newspaper story inviting like-minded people to meet at Captain Scott's **Discovery**, which was then moored in St. Katherine's Dock in London. "I had always liked practical knots from my scouting days," he recalls, "so I went along. There were 25 of us altogether at the meeting and we set up the International Guild of Knot Tyers which now meets twice a year."

At the two day Clare Priory Craft Fair, which has been running for 16 years, artists and craftsmen and women display a wide range of traditional and modern crafts inside the historic Augustinian priory and in the open-air pitches and four marquees in the priory grounds. The craft fair is organised entirely by volunteers from Clare Priory parish and all the proceeds go to good causes. Last year these included the historic priory, a number of local charities, and Clare's twin Augustinian parish in Baba Dogo, Nairobi, Kenya.

In the photograph (next page) Mr. Woods is putting an eye splice - a permanent loop - in a rope.



These three photographs of knots were sent by an observant member and reader of Knotting Matters - can anyone else tell us where the photographs were taken and which knots/bends/hitches they are? More in the December issue (#105) of KM - Ed.



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My Fellow Knot Tyers

Since my return from the AGM in May, life for me has mostly been taken up with one ocean passage after another with my work in offshore fisheries research. Add to this the normal Northern Hemisphere summer-time tasks, and the days and months have been grinding away pretty fast. The down time aboard ship does yield for me some time for some knotting projects and now all the crew on my watch each sports a new knife lanyard. Now to get them to remember how to tie a simple slip clove hitch, used to bait our traps, and I'll be happier.

Thankfully, the high caliber of our new and established executive council members has generated a fantastic communication network, allowing better solutions and understanding of both the daily duties of the Guild, both worldwide and in England, as well as taking on additional goals. Their abilities provide me with a great relief knowing that the dealings of the Guild are never on hold. I first must commend our new Hon. Chairman, Colin Grundy, for his tenacity in diving into the time-absorbing duties of his office. Along with new members, Jane Bamford, Phil (the Rope) Cook and Barry Mault, the level of contact among the council has been a flurry of activity. When returning from repetitive 10-day sampling trips, the number of emails waiting for me has been amazing. But I would be amiss if I did not mention the contributions of Andy Dart, Don Burrhus, Bruce and Linda Turley and our editor of KM, Lindsey Philpott. Thanks everyone.

This leads me to remind all of our members that our international communication network benefits the most from any and all communiqués. Whether in an email to the council, in an article for Knotting Matters or by a notice of a local meeting or event, responses and understanding only get better with use. So I welcome hearing from and about our membership in a world truly indebted to the art of knotting.

On my local level, participation in the 2009 Atlantic Tall Ship Challenge at the Charleston Harbor Fest yielded three very warm (hot) and exciting days of demonstrations for the Spirit Knot Tyers in June. With ships from around the world, the 376-foot Russian training ship, Kruzenshtern, topped

the fleet of vessels from 6 nations and a crowd of eager visitors numbering over 80,000. As a true testament of the perils of the open sea, she suffered the dismasting of her forward topmast. Seeing her at her berth with three of her sails wrapped in a mass of rigging was a shocking sight. Due to safety, one could only watch from the dockside as the crew worked to shore up all of the forward rigging, passing the beefy cable stays forward along the massive bowsprit. Yet, when it came time to set sail toward the city of Boston, less than a week later, she sailed out with full sail, minus the damaged topmast. Still, she was a glorious sight to witness.

As usual when this fleet makes port, a crew challenge of various games is part of the international good will, and a knot-tying contest is one never to be left out nor taken lightly. Local Guild members staffed this match of skill with a close battle for top honors emerging between the Uruguay vessel **Captain Miranda** and the British **Rona II**. In a run-off, the crew of the **Captain Miranda** was victorious by little more than one second. The energy of the cheering of foreign crews added to the excitement and probably to the tension of the participating crews. One beauty of helping with this event was the recognition received from the ships during their time in port. It was great to know that the Guild was known to some already, and is now known by many more sailors from foreign ports.

Many of the sailors afterward found the Guild's booth and spent some time watching, talking, teaching and learning knots. Their presence, as well as the presence of the large crowd, kept the booth in a constant buzz of hands-on involvement. In earlier years, I may have been by myself at the booth. Yet this year, 12 members from three US States participated, with at least three working at all times.

For those who participate in any knotting event, the fun, memories and knowledge that one comes away with, truly outweighs the work required to put on a display. I highly recommend that if you can help out at an event, you should do so. A high degree of knowledge is not always required, and by working with others, your own skills grow and improve.

Smooth turns
Dan Machowski

[See the thank you letter from Lt-Cdr Michelle Walsh on page 17 - Ed]

Single-Strip Ditty Bag

From time to time to time, throughout my working life in the Merchant Navy, someone would mention the fact that they had seen a sea bag whose sleeve was made from a single strip of canvas. Personally, I had never seen one myself so I decided, recently, to have a go at a ditty bag but using two different coloured strips. Here is the result **[see center pages - Ed]**. Length is 14 ins. and circumference is 22 ins. The 8-strand lanyard comprises a flat of square knots (eye), Matthew Walker's, Star Knot, gaucho-braided Turk's Heads and Macrame.
I hope this may be of some use to you.

Regards.
Joe Bennett.

Grip Line Needle

I have a need for line needles in a wide range of sizes. These tools comprise of a metal shaft with a blunt point and a threaded hole that is used to attach the work material. A needle of this type will only take a narrow range of line diameters, so a range of sizes is required if a knotter wants to use a lot of different diameter lines. There are only a couple of sizes of needles used for lacing work commercially available from leather work suppliers. Making the tools is difficult, unless the artisan has access to appropriate machines and tools, plus the skills to use them. My solution to this problem was to utilise the principle of the Grip Fid as developed by Stuart Grainger. Brass and copper tubing of various diameters is fairly easy to obtain and only a metal file and light hammer are required to form the gripping end of the needle. In order to make the blunt point I initially tried cold forging, but with little success. I then tried to fill the end with solder and shape with a file. This had limited success. I finally tried filling with Araldite resin **[see center pages - Ed]**. The point was fashioned with a file and finished by placing in an electric drill and polishing with fine emery paper. One distinct advantage of this device is its ability to handle a wider range of line sizes. Another advantage is that the knotter can make this tool to a desired length.

Gudday all!

Frank Brown

Sea Chest and Ball-in-ball-in-ball

Hallo!
I have restored an old sea chest. This chest is about 100 years old. It's not an original sea chest but now it is a "Knot Chest". I'm from the German IGKT.
Here is a tutorial for " ball in ball in ball "

1. Take a balloon and blow it up until it becomes a small ball.
2. Now choose a knot of the "Globe Knot Cookbook" (from our friend Don Burrhus)
3. Now shape the chosen knot around the balloon.
4. Now you have to coat it with clear lacquer.
5. After 24 hours the knot is hard enough, so destroy the balloon.
6. After doing this, you have to take a new airballoon with a bigger vent
7. Squeeze the ball inside
8. Blow this one up until the first ball is free in the balloon
9. Now do it like step 2+3

That's the way to put more balls inside one. For the ball in a bottle: directly after using the clear lacquer and it is dry, squeeze the ball and put it in the bottle. Now you need two longer sticks, and bring the squeezed ball back in shape.
As you can see , it is very simple :-)

have fun,

best regards Olaf Fischer. (knoten-Ole)
[Thanks Olaf - **see center pages** for photographs and www.knoten-ole.de for his web-site - Ed]

Netting

When netting in the round, one has to make a larger mesh at the time of dropping for the successive row. This can be got around by leaving a tail of suitable length to the left at the start of the first row. After the first row of knots is complete, a chinese crown knot is to be tied by using a part of the tail and the part of the twine from the netting needle. The chinese crown knot is to be tied at the same level as the loops of the first row. Now the tail will have shifted one position to the left and dropped one row below, and the netting needle would permit to tie the netting knots of the second row without having to make a larger mesh at the drop of the row. Each successive round will shift the tail one position to the left and one row below.
regards,
Satish Patki

16
A Fluo Ditty Bag.

A "What-I-Did" by Barry Brown

How do all ;-)

The bag's title, name or whatever is "Fluo Ditty"; the reason it is called this is because I used Fluorescent Yellow Diabolo String for all the highlighted knots and braiding. I used this particular string because I juggle Diabolos and had the string already; also I needed cheering up & I could think of no better way to cheer myself up than making myself a new shiny, happy ditty bag.

Another thing about the Fluorescent Yellow cord is that it is UV reactive; meaning it glows brightly under Ultra Violet Light. I still have to get a picture of this in action; the string also glows brightly when it gets hit with natural UV light during the dusk hours when the sun is low in the sky.

This bag makes me very happy, and I can't help smiling every time I see it glowing. It is also hard to take good detail shots of the knots as they seem to blind (?) the digital camera, making the knots look like little balls of sunshine ;-) ; in most of the pictures I took, the Fluo Yellow knots had no detail at all.

The particulars of the bag are as follows, from the head down: the lanyard has a hanging loop of six strand round braid, followed by a single strand Mathew Walker knot, the grip section of the handle is overhand Spanish Hitching, followed by another single strand Mathew Walker knot, with the transition points on the grip covered by two large, braided Gaucho knots in the shiny, happy string.

There are six lanyard legs each terminating in an eye splice and a Pineapple knot button; [they] are buttoned through the six sewn grommet eyelets making the lanyard removable. The puckering, closure or sliding knot is a Pineapple knot. On the base of the bag is a spliced, double ball toggle, [each] covered with Pineapple knots, to which the lanyard's hanging loop can be fixed to make the Ditty Bag in to a handy shoulder bag.

[Thanks Barry - nice work! See also center pages - Ed]

Dear Colin/Ken re:**AGM 2009**

It was a pleasure to meet you and members of the International Guild of Knot Tyers over the 8-10 May weekend and I know that the cadets thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the staff. After a very successful weekend at **ORION**, hosting the IGKT AGM event and Mess Dinner, I am delighted to inform you on what we have raised.

We raised £1,300 for Nottingham Sea Cadets over your weekend. Boots UK Ltd (where I work) have also match-funded a further £500 to bring a total of £1,800! This is an outstanding achievement, and all the money has gone towards sponsoring 17 Cadets to go on the Offshore Vessels **T.S. John Jerwood** and **T.S. Royalist** in November, where they will learn many life skills and experiences which will include Team Work, Leadership, Ropework, Navigation, First Aid and much more.
The normal cost for a cadet on the Offshore Vessels is £240, but with money raised and by securing further sponsorships, all the cadets will only pay £50 each. We had 17 Cadets apply for **John Jerwood** with only 12 places available. So that we do not disappoint the other 5 cadets, I have also managed to get 5 cadets on **Royalist** for the same week (Gosport to Gosport). The good news is that I have secured another £950 sponsorship today, so the 5 cadets going on **Royalist** will only pay £50 each (the same price as we are charging for **John Jerwood**).

This means we have smashed our target of 25 Cadets attending Offshore Courses this year :-) and we are only in May.....
2 x Royalist March 09
4 x Yachts April 09
2 x Royalist May 09
12 x John Jerwood Nov 09
5 x Royalist Nov 09

Total sponsorship I have secured/raised this year for our Cadets on the Offshore activities (John Jerwood, Yachts & Royalist) is..... £4,180.00

I would like to thank the IGKT, which has kick-started our campaign and it has been amazing with the spin off from that. It has been a real pleasure to host your event and you are all welcome back at **ORION** anytime. I would also like to thank all the members for making my 40th Birthday so special.

Kind regards,
Michelle Welsh
Lt Cdr (SCC) MCGI RNR
CO Nottingham
ASO BTEC
UK International Escort Officer 2009

18
Yachtsman's purchase

by John Woosey, Formby, UK

When I joined the British Fire Service in 1964 I, along with my colleagues, was taught a number of knots, bends, hitches and splices which we were examined on and expected to remember for use throughout our service.

Among them was the Yachtsman's purchase, which was designed to lash two or more scaling ladders together with the aid of a long line (100 feet). I have searched for it in books and the internet but cannot find any reference other than where it originally appeared, which was in part 6A of the Manual of Firemanship which was printed in 1945 but was subsequently abandoned in future publishings.

I enclose details of this seemingly overcomplicated series of hitches as it was published and wondered if any other member has knowledge of it [see next page - Ed].

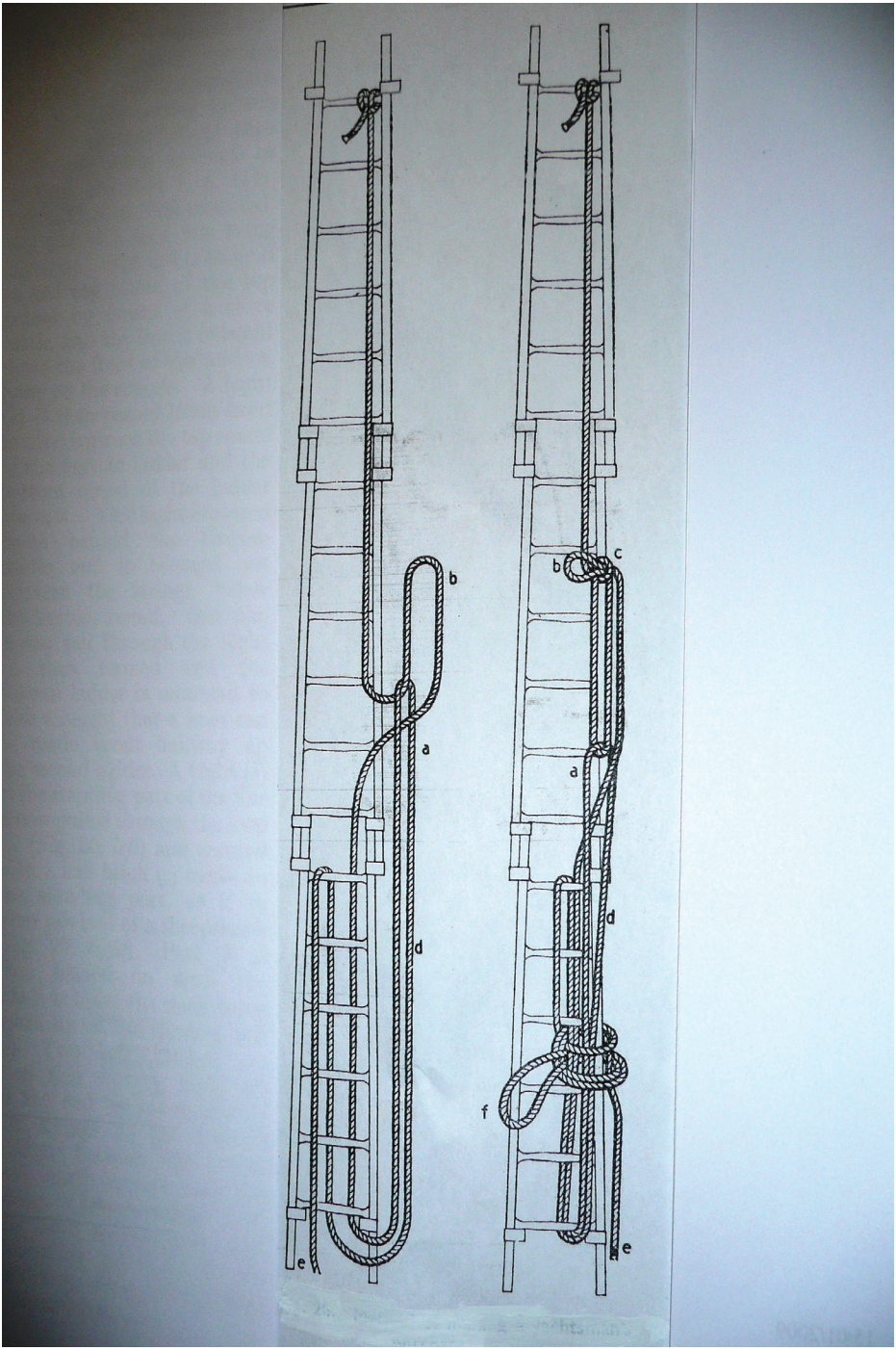
The yachtsman's purchase is used to strengthen two or more scaling ladders shipped together (except when they are being lowered or bridged). The ladders are first mounted, one end of a long line being taken up. The end is secured to the top round of the top ladders by means of a clove hitch, and the line is brought down the front of the ladders, lying on the rounds [aka rungs]. A bight (a) is passed from front to rear between the top round of the bottom ladder and the bottom round of the ladder above it. This bight is passed down behind the bottom ladder and is brought out between the strings, below the bottom round. One arm is now put through the bight (a) thus formed and the bottom ladder is mounted to such a height that a knot can be made half way up the second ladder.

A bight (b) of the standing part of the line is now pulled through the loop (a) and secured with a half hitch (c) made on the standing part, as if to form one half of a sheepshank. Part (d) is then hauled on until the whole is tight, the slack being taken up on the running end (e).

Two half hitches are then tied with a bight (f) of the end (e) round of one the strings of the bottom ladder between the third and fourth rounds and the ladder is then turned over, the knot having first been pulled to one side to leave the rounds unobstructed.

Regards

John Woosey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WARTIME ROPEWORK MEMORIES

By Percy Blandford

Introduction

Percy Blandford is now age 97 and still not quite retired. He was in at the start of the IGKT. He and his late wife, Ivy, played a part in getting the organisation on the way to what it is now. Percy was the first president of the IGKT. Ivy was the first Supplies Secretary.

For much of World War I, British recruitment depended on volunteers. In World War II we had to wait for call-up and go where you were put. At the time of my call-up they did not want anyone interested in boating in the Royal Navy and I found myself in the Royal Air Force. I was already a qualified engineer and I was soon servicing and repairing operational aircraft.

Then I was posted to a unit training Army glider pilots for invasion. The wooden Hotspur training gliders, which we had to finally assemble, carried two pilots and five airborne troops with their equipment.

There was a problem about aircraft [used] to tow them. None could be spared from operational work. Some biplanes were found that had been at the end of a production line and never fully assembled. They were Hart variants and the pride of the RAF in the mid-thirties. About twenty of them came to us, with varying amounts of assembly work to be done. It might have been fun, like assembling big models, except that men's lives would depend on our work.

Controls were operated by flexible steel wire cables. The cables were tensile steel wires with six [strands] around a heart strand. Diameter was less than 2 mm (less than 1/8-inch). They came to us with an eye splice in one end. The wire had to be threaded through to its destination and another eye spliced in position. There were 400 men on the station and I was the only one who knew how to splice wire cable! There were eight splices on each plane. I made a small marline spike from a piece of bracing wire from a crashed plane, with a groove to slide a wire strand along. I still have it. I also needed a first aid box as the little strands showed their temper and drew blood.

After we had got one aircraft flying, I taught some others how to do stages of a splice and finished off each job myself. By a lot of cannibalising of the twenty planes, we were flying six, which was enough, fortunately. I now know a lot more about splicing tiny wire ropes.

Tow Ropes

At first, the tug and glider were joined by hemp ropes, a little over one inch diameter, which came to us with eye splices in the ends. This had negligible stretch and there was telephone cable along its centre. As the tug started moving, the glider followed obediently.

These ropes were used for ten launches and then discarded. I looked at these ropes enviously, thinking they would be useful to my Scout Troop. After the war I was running a course for Scout Leaders and one of the ropes supplied for bridge building had a telephone cable along its middle!

Then came nylon. I had never seen a nylon rope before, nor had many others. It was an invention of the DuPont Company in America. It was three-strand of the same size as the hemp rope. Performance was very different. The tug aircraft would go tearing across the airfield, but the glider stayed put until the rope was nearly twice its original length. Then it realised it was meant to move and slowly started. By the time tug and glider were airborne, the rope was back to something like its original length.

For obvious reasons, there was no telephone cable in the rope. Nylon ropes were given an almost unlimited life expectancy.
Those of us who had put tugs and gliders together were expected to go up in them as some sort of guarantee. We survived.

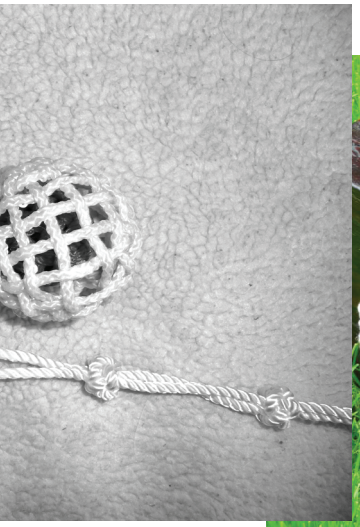
Canoeing

That was only the beginning of my war. I moved on to a very different job, but that is another story. I spent some of the time at Farnborough in Hampshire, the RAF research establishment. I can only think of one item of roping interest while there.
Two of us took a canoe on the nearby Basingstoke Canal determined to get it to Fleet, five miles away. The duckweed in this, then derelict, canal was so solid that it bent forward on a paddling stroke and bent back to leave us where we were between strokes. We went ashore and bought a clothes line. With that we took it in turns to tow the canoe. We got to Fleet and back by each walking half the distance on the towpath. We slept well that night.

Joe Bennett, from Greenock, UK made this ditty bag from two pieces of canvas - see letter in "How I Did It" on page 14 - Ed

How I Did I
Ditty Bags E

Left and above - details of Barry Brown's latest shiny happy ditty bag



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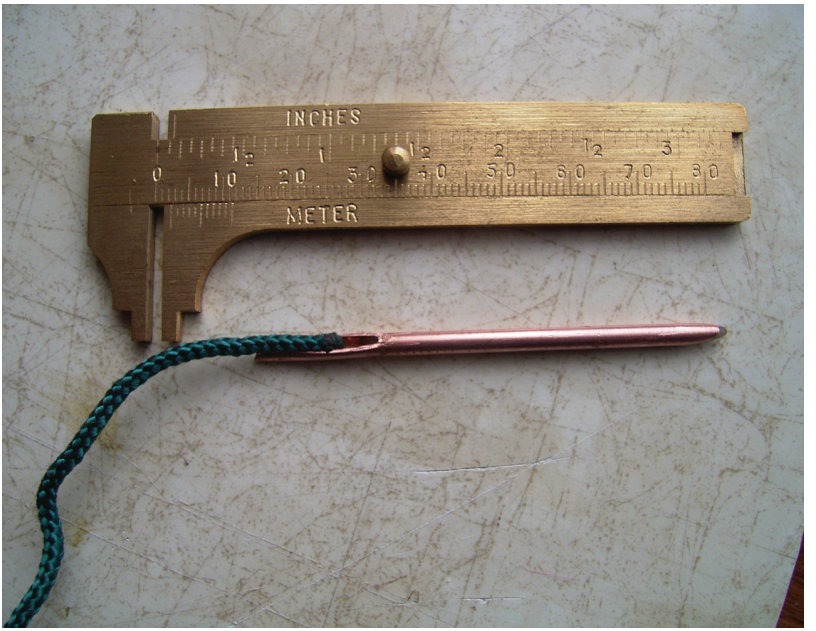
Above right: - Sea Chest refurbished by Olaf
Above center: - Ball in ball in ball by Olaf

Below: - Knotting needle by Frank Brown



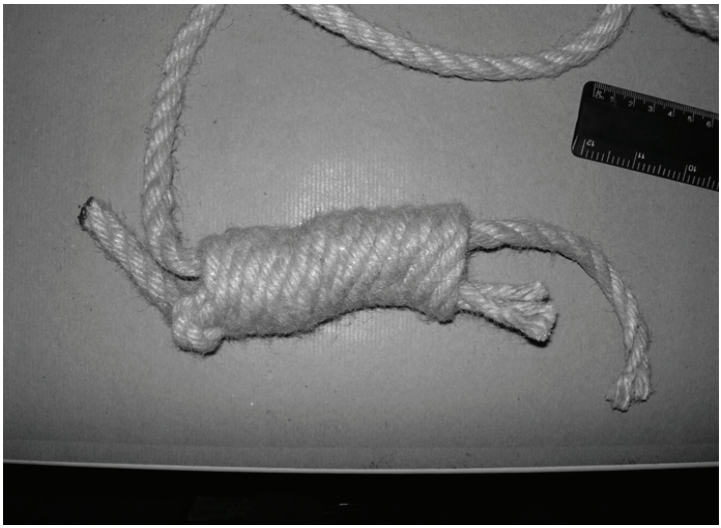
Knots under the Microscope - by Rodger Ide.

Part 2 of 2 parts: first part in KM 103 - Ed.

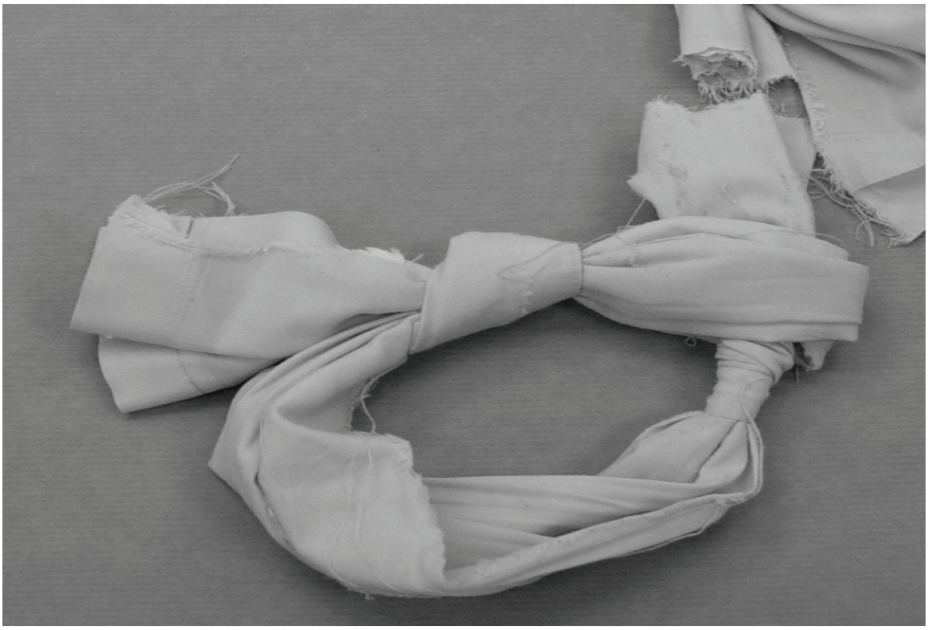
This is the second part of an article dealing with the forensic examination of knotted material. In the first half, the author mentioned the many isomeric forms of the granny knot, types of evidence provided, and the importance of microscopical examination. This section deals with examples of knots used in cases of hanging, strangulations and bondage.

Noose knots.

In the whole of my forensic career I can only recollect four deaths in which some form of hangman's knot {3} was used. In one of these cases the body was found in a badly decomposed condition in a remote shed: with a library book describing the tying of knots propped open in front of him. Unfortunately, the library book was, by this time, seriously overdue.



A hangman's noose tied in rope used in a death by hanging. In this case there were 12½ wrappings. The optimum number of wrappings for a hangman's noose is said to be 8. However for superstitious reasons, 9 or 13 wrappings are sometimes used. When the hangman's knot is tied, between ½ and 1½ wrappings tend to be lost during the tightening process. As a consequence, to achieve a final knot with 8 wrappings, it is desirable to make 9 windings during initial formation of the body of the knot.



The noose from a prison cell hanging in which several strips of sheet were knotted together. The noose was formed using a threaded overhand loop4 (left). This part of the ligature consisted of two parallel narrow strips of sheet, and the partially concealed overhand knot on the right held the two parallel strips together.

Most nooses used for both murderous and suicidal hangings consist of either threaded fixed loops, inverted granny knots, or some form of overhand noose. Prisoners commonly tear narrow strips of sheet to make ropes, used for various purposes including the passing of contraband between cells. It is sometimes the case that a prisoner may demonstrate knot-tying habits, consistently producing particular invented knots or knotted systems. Clumsily tied nooses are commonly used in the distribution of illicit drugs, and more tragically in suicides. A surprising number of prison cell hangings involve the use of the reversed overhand noose, an unsophisticated knot, which Ashley does not recognise.

This belt had almost certainly been tied around the neck of the deceased in the form of a normal granny knot. When the body weight acted upon the system, the knot inverted forming two half hitches, which were able to slide down the suspending length, causing the noose to constrict. Human head hairs such as the ones trapped within this knot can normally provide evidence of the sequence of events.

The point of attachment.

Any person intending to hang himself, or another person, must find a secure point of attachment for the rope. The designers of prisons are aware of this, and increasingly modern cells are constructed in a manner, which does not incorporate convenient points of attachment.

Prisoners can show considerable ingenuity, and many of them are aware of the fact that the point of suspension for a hanging does not necessarily need to be high.
In one cell death the occupant hanged himself by wrapping the ligature around the press button intended for flushing the WC.

Subjects committing suicide in the comfort of their own homes have more choice. Banisters tend to be favoured, although some go to the trouble of putting baulk of timber across framework of an open loft trap.

People intending to murder a victim by hanging, have used points of attachment on bathroom doors, roof beams in garages, and of course banisters. In the latter case, proximity of the stairs facilitates the convenient handling of the body, an aspect of the crime which many murderers do not consider at first.

Bindings.

In many cases it is necessary to identify the knots used when a victim has been secured. In some cases the knots are self-tied in an attempt to conceal false allegations of a crime. Common stories include; "Two masked men tied me up and forced me to tell them the combination of the safe."

One useful technique in establishing whether knots have been self-tied, is to test for the enzyme α,amylase which is present in human saliva. It is common for people tying themselves to use their teeth to grip the rope. The position of this enzyme may help to distinguish between tightening, and attempts to loosen the rope using the teeth. The binding could also be examined for extraneous DNA.

I examined one case in which a woman claimed to have been tied up and sexually assaulted by an unknown assailant, most mornings after her husband had gone to work. Examination of the bindings provided extremely strong evidence that they had been self-tied.

In genuine cases, the manner of tying may provide some evidence to assist the investigation.

This d.l. reef knot (left over right - right over left) was used to secure a victim who was tied up, doused with petrol and then set on fire. The bindings consisted of blue polypropylene rope, which partially melted with the heat of the flames, freeing the victim. The melting points of common materials have been measured and can sometimes be relevant to an investigation {5}.

Lower photograph, previous page: Whilst the nature of the knot can sometimes provide useful information, significantly stronger evidence can often be provided by the recovery of trace materials, such as DNA, present on the rope. Elaborate precautions must be taken to prevent contamination.

Conclusion.

It is not customary for forensic scientists to court publicity, but there have been cases in which well-intentioned knot enthusiasts have attempted to examine forensic samples.

Even in apparently simple cases, there may be unsuspected trace evidence, or other features of significance, which may throw fresh light on the inquiry.

In addition there are increasingly rigorous standards required of forensic practitioners for evidence preservation, continuity, prevention of contamination, recording of information, forensic procedures, and above all - objectivity. Forensic science has undergone a sea-change in recent years and has emerged a healthier, stronger, but more unforgiving discipline.

Criminals who committed murders, assaults and other crimes many years ago are now being caught in the DNA net. It is gratifying to think that there are many criminals who now dread of the sound of their own door-bells, fearing the arrival of a police officer from a Cold Case Review Team. In a number of instances, the re-examination of knotted material has provided significant evidence, forming part of the case against them.

Rodger H. Ide BSc., CSci., CChem., FRSC., FIFire E., CBiol., MIBiol, FFSSoc., RFP.
Senior Partner, Forensic Science Investigations.

1 Robert Chisnall. The Forensic Analysis of Knots and Ligatures
2 Robert G. Bone. Unpublished Survey.
3 Ashley Book of Knots <366>
4 Ashley Book of Knots <1009>
5 Cooke and Ide. Principles of Fire Investigation

[This is the second half of an article published in two parts. The first part, dealing with the views of knots under the microscope, was published in the last edition (June 2009, #103) of Knotting Matters - Ed]

KNOTTING IMAGERY IN JUST SIX WORDS

by Geoffrey Budworth

The US writer and Nobel Peace Prize winner Ernest Hemingway (1809 - 1961), is said to have won a $10 a head bet from other writers he met in New York's Algonquin Hotel that he couldn't tell a story in only six words. He won, so the tale goes, with:
"*For sale: baby shoes, never worn.*"

Six-word stories have become a challenge for those striving to be memorable with words. Timothy Leary (1920 - 1996), icon of 1960s counter-culture, exhorted us to:
"*Turn on, tune in, drop out.*"
The US screen actress Bette Davis (1908 - 1989) observed:
"*Old age is not for sissies.*"
And recently a UK daily newspaper published a pithy specimen:
"*Dad called; DNA result - he isn't.*"

There are many more succinct one-liners contained in:
One Life. 6 words. What's Yours?
edited by Rachel Fershleiser & Larry Smith, publ. 2009 by FSC + Harper Collins
[ISBN 978-0-00-778270-2]
This hardback book retails at around ten pounds sterling, and its equivalent in other currencies, but may also be acquired more cheaply via the Internet.

Always keen to enrich, enliven and enlarge knot lore, the KM production team had a go and came up with the following:

Knots are beautiful, like the stars
My life lacks a locking tuck!
Seizings, whippings and lashings - sadist's delight.
Born to knot, not to yawn.
Hubble telescope discovers star knots [Reuters]
Bipolar emotions: either necktie or noose.
Mandevillian trambles link shape-shifting bends.
Knotters take turns to do it.
Macrame not proper knotting. Who says?

More often prose than poetry, such aphorisms and epigrams do not have to rhyme (although a little alliteration is always tempting), while the occasional apostrophe and hyphen may enable two words to count as one. So, can KM readers - who include, we know, many avid word mavens - come up with similar (or better) ones on knots and related topics? Send your contributions to KM's editor for possible publication.

Enrico Lagana, Via Crispi 133 17027 PIETRA LIGURE
Pietra Ligure, Giune [June} the 21st 2009

To Mr Dave Walker PO Box 3540, Chester CHI 9FU ENGLAND

I am an old seaman but a new member (October 2008) of the Guild and - of course — a knots tyer. Pleased to meet you. I'll be brief: only two items.

1) I want to constitute a local group of knot tyers in Italy, and precisely at Pietra Ligure (my home town in the Riviera di Ponente) under the name and logo of the International Guild* Is there any routine procedure to undergo?

2) I have just received Issue 103 June 2009. In the superscripture on the envelope you state my renewal as due 11/01/09. It must be wrong, as it should be 11/10/09. I am sending you a photocopy of the front part of such envelope. [*matter resolved - Ed.*]

That's about all. My compliments for the magazine and all the rest; but - if I am allowed to say it - less chats and more knots would do best. [*so noted, Enrico - Ed*]

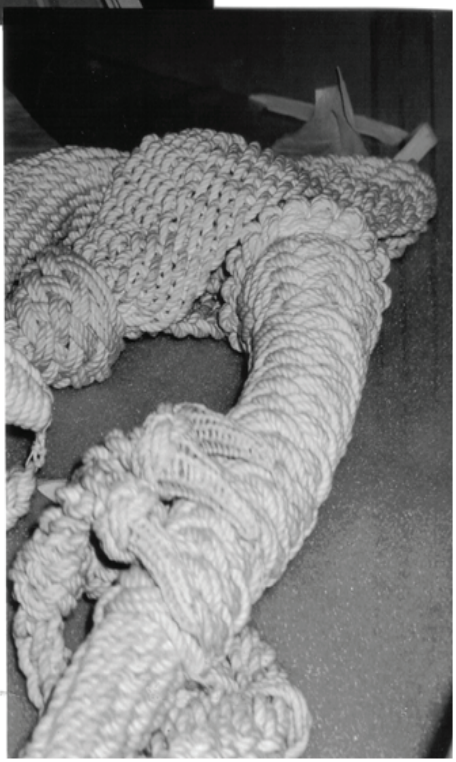
I beg your pardon for my bad English.

Greeting to all.
Enrico Lagana

PS Could say something in the next KM about the constitution of the Italian Group (my address and Tel. Number is stated in the heading) so that all other Italian members'll come to know it? Thank you. [Done! - Ed.]

Richard Hodge and his specially commissioned piece for the new Museum. According to Māori creation traditions the god of the sea and progenitor of fish is Tangaroa, the son of Ranginui (the sky father) and Papatūānuku (the earth mother). Tangaroa's son Punga was the father of Ikatere and Tūtewehiwehi. Ikatere went to the sea, where he and his children became fish. Tūtewehiwehi journeyed inland, and he and his offspring became reptiles.

In these traditions Tūmatauenga, the god of war, fought with Tangaroa. Their enmity explains why humans, the descendants of Tūmatauenga, go fishing: they are continuing the war against Tangaroa's progeny, the fish [Information obtained from the official New Zealand government web-site: http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/te-hi-ika-maori-fishing/1 - Ed.]



Branch Lines

All Branches

What: Half-year General Meeting
When: Oct 9 - 11 2009
Location: New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford, MA USA

Airlines: Nearest International airport is Boston, MA
Hotels: They are next to each other and run by the same group

Residence Inn 181 Faunce Corner Rd, Dartmouth MA. Single Suite $159. per night, Phone 508-984-5858
Comfort Inn 171 Faunce Corner Rd, Dartmouth MA. Single Rm $109.95 per night, Phone 508-996 0800
Tell them you are with the International Guild of Knot Tyers.
Also, there is a Days Inn motel about two miles out of town for $79 per night, double occupancy, some smoking rooms available

Pre-meeting activities to include tour of New England Rope Company, a commercial net maker and, of course, R&W Rope Warehouse.

At the museum, we will have the Azorean Maritime Foundation give a talk or continuous showing on their whaling boat and practice. Also, at least one small tall ship should be back from the shipyard and is just across the street at the dock..

Pre-meeting activities to include tour of New England Rope Company, a commercial net maker, and of course, R&W Rope Warehouse.
Additional trips are being looked into: A visit to the Mystic Seaport, in Mystic Conn. USA, Charles Towne Ship Yard (Home Port to the USS Constitution) in Boston, MA USA and Newport Harbor, Newport RI, USA

For further information please contact Bob Dollar (R&W Rope) RDollar@hotmail.com or Bob@RWRope.com or Dan Machowski DanMachowski@bellsouth.net

Richard Hodge's Bellrope, now being considered for inclusion as part of the International Olympic Committee gift from the IGKT. See story in New Zealand Chapter Branch news on page 37

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH meeting 18th of April 2009

17 people met in the Windmill Room of the Abbots Hall Primary School Danescourt Ave Stowmarket in Suffolk. This is our usual meeting place, but a different name and booking arrangements nearly left us high and dry [it was the school's half term and they had forgotten our booking!]. Fortunately, our master of ceremonies Tuffy Turner who lives near Stowmarket was able to find the caretaker, which saved the situation, for which we all were very grateful.
The theme of the meeting was "Animals" to be interpreted how each of us chose. So we had Dog Shanks, Sheep Shanks, Dog leads, Horsehair and Cowhair rope; a tenuous link with a donkey enabled the jug sling to be shown; knotted animals of all sorts, inspired from Stuart Grainger's "Ropefolk" and Chinese knotting; men, tortoises and owls from Skoobies: and snail napkin rings. Then there were halters, hobbles and lariats, a knitted dog blanket and we finished off with a series of cats cradles being passed amongst members. In between all this there was still time for our regular feature, "My Favourite Knot", which this time was interpreted as 2 favourite knots, the Constrictor and the Matthew Walker, a discussion on the Bowline and an explanation as to how a very large carboy was covered with hitching.
It was agreed that the next meeting would be on September the 26th at 1pm at the same place, when the theme to be interpreted would be "Rings and Circles".
Do join us then. For more information contact:-
Des Pawson 01473 690090 or e-mail to: des@despawson.com

FRENCH BRANCH

A note (in French) from Graham MacLachlan:

Bonjour à tous,
Sylvain et moi nous avons passés un très bon week-end à Cancale: il y avait du soleil, des bateaux, la plage, de la musique, un public intéressé et nous étions royalement reçu par l'organisation.
Le concept des Fériales littorales est de réunir des bateaux voile-aviron au moment de la fête de musique et c'est une combinaison qui a plutôt bien marché avec des chants marins, des sosies de Abba (!) puis des formations musicales locales.
Parmi les plus grand navires, nous avons vu **La Recouvrance** de Brest, La bisquine nouvellement restaurée **La Granvillaise** et bien sûr son quasi-jumeau **La Cancalaise**.
Sur le stand, j'avais mis une liasse de bulletins d'adhésion sur la table puis ils sont tous partis donc j'en suis sûr qu'on verra de nouveaux adhérents qui vont bientôt rejoindre nos rangs.
Puis tout cela nous donne envie de participer à la fête de chant de marins à Paimpol au mois d'août...
bien cordagement

Graham

36
GERMAN BRANCH

Gluecksburg, Germany, July 29th 2009

German Branch Meeting: International Maritime Museum Hamburg (IMMH)

From July 24th to 26th 2009, the German Branch held a meeting in the "International Maritime Museum Hamburg". The museum, which opened in the year 2008, presents information on nine levels (also known as "decks") with maritime treasures from all over the world.

The "IMMH", as it is known for short by the sailors, offers the German branch, and our participating friends of the IGKT as well, a forum of quite exquisite class for future meetings.

The meeting was attended by six members of our new Branch and we also welcomed Efina and Frits Otts from the Netherlands. We had lots of fun with them all day. The visitors to our display were shown:
Rope- and Fendermaking (Frits Otts, Peter Willems, Walter Marbes),
Knotting lessons for children and adults too (Gert Heinrich, Volker Margraf).
Oskar Kirchhoff presented his artful knotwork laid with thin cordage.

For the first time in our meetings we offered brief presentations to visitors of the museum (Gert Heinrich: "Sailor`s Language and Customs", K.Bareuther: "Seabag, Chest and Ditty Bag, Sailor`s Equipment in the Age of Sail").

To summarize – we held our meeting in an exclusive museum in which we can present well and to which we, as members of the IGKT, will be very welcome for future events.

On behalf of the German Branch

Karl Bareuther

MIDLANDS BRANCH

DATES FOR 2009 BRANCH MEETINGS.

19 Oct 09 - Eye and back splicing

14 Dec 09 – Branch Xmas meal.

NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER

July 2009.

Its been a busy time here in the antipodes. A number of new people have shown an interest in the Guild; we have met with staff members of both our Navy Museum and also our National Maritime Museum staff in an attempt to increase Guild membership in Auckland. Some of our Wellington members have been fully engaged in getting the Guild's New Zealand Headquarters ready for sea and we have put up a Guild display in a prominent bookshop in our Capital City. We have also urged the Guild Council to consider offering a beautiful Bellrope made by our Christchurch member, Richard Hodge, to the London 2012 Olympic Committee. The first Branch of the Chapter has been formed by the inimitable Emeritus President of the Chapter Roger Carter (The Kapiti branch. Kapiti is a prominent Island North of Wellington) and he has once again appeared as an expert witness in a Murder trial.

At this year's annual meeting of the Chapter we approved a special membership category of the New Zealand Chapter. Our Associate members can be either a supportive organisation or someone thinking of becoming a full member, but hesitant to join until more sure of the commitment. This has drawn in about five new people, who I am confident would not otherwise have participated in our work.

Auckland, our largest city, nick-named 'The City of Sails', has only a few members and our Annual meeting approved that increasing membership there was a priority. Two important developments in Auckland right now favour this move. Sir Peter Blake was one of our greatest sailors. Our national Maritime Museum has developed a multi-million dollar memorial to him, and once it is opened we will assist staff there as a way of increasing membership in Auckland. Tony Fisher has held two meetings there so far. Our navy Museum is also undergoing a major re-build and Tony has met with staff there with a view to assisting and presenting a display of our work. Richard Hodge was commissioned by the Navy to create an image of the Maori Sea God, Tangaroa, and this beautiful creation [see p.32 - Ed] will be a feature piece in the new Museum.

[Next page: Tony Fisher with grand-daughter Evie Rodgers outside the display by the New Zealand Chapter at Capital Books, Wellington.]

Wellington's floating crane, the "Hikitia" has undergone a major overhaul at Stark's Shipyard in Lyttleton harbour and Wellington members Jack Sheahan, Pat Cunningham and Tony Fisher have spent most of this year helping get her ready for sea. She will be back mid- October and Chapter meetings will be held once again. Guild members visiting Wellington are asked to contact Tony at tony67.fisher@yahoo.co.nz His residential address and phone number are in the Guild membership handbook. During the Peking Olympics, Richard Hodge saw that the bell rope on the athletic track was a simple leather fitting, that on one occasion fell off! Being the creative person he was, he has made one specially for the London 2012 Olympic Committee and the New Zealand Chapter has suggested that the Guild Council offer it to the London 2012 Olympic Committee.

After a couple of years in 'retirement' from active participation in the New Zealand Chapter, our Founding President, and current President Emeritus, Roger Carter is back with us in full flight. Great stuff! He has founded our first Branch of the Chapter, the Kapiti Branch. True to form his first action was to run a series of knotting programmes for children. The venue is a marvelous maritime museum called "Calico Jacks" and just the right venue for the Branch. Once again Roger was called at very short notice to appear as an expert witness in a murder trial, a throttling.

Tony Fisher
President
New Zealand Chapter.

PACIFIC AMERICAS BRANCH

Our Twelfth Annual General Meeting and dinner was hosted by the Newport Beach American Legion Yacht Club (ALYC) on Friday the 7th of August. It was a beautiful venue on a beautiful Southern California beach afternoon and evening.

Attending were Mike Bromley (President), Jose Hernandez-Juviel (Librarian), Joseph Schmidbauer (Editor-Knot News & Board Member), wife Linda, daughter Erin & her friend Tom Woudard, Lindsey Philpott (Past President, Board Member & Editor-in-chief-Knotting Matters) & wife (and webmistress) Kim Moore, Jimmy Williams (Secretary/Treasurer) and wife Codie, Darrell Ausherman, Cliff Case & friend Jill Campbell, John Houck, Lily Morales, Vicki Paul, Joseph Soanes & wife Evelyn.

The Treasurer gave his financial report and the Secretary reported on our active membership. That was followed by the President's talk about our upcoming displays at the Antelope Valley Fair as well as the Los Angeles County Fair. We also discussed our planning on offering educational meetings and possible venues for that activity. Nothing is decided as yet, but we hope to offer some valuable information to the public.

We gave a report on a communication received last month from Judith Small. Ms Small indicated that her Grandfather (Earl Lester) had left a rather large collection of assorted knot work when he passed on in 1995. She wanted to know if we were interested in receiving some or all of his collection. Mike Bromley, Lindsey Philpott and I met with her and her mother on Sunday, the 2nd of August. Upon viewing the collection, it was decided that we would, indeed, enjoy adding his collection to ours (I tried to take some of it home with me, but Mike and Lindsey weren't having any of that!). In the near future, we hope to have some biographical information and pictures of the collection to share with all of the IGKT.

John Houck stopped by only long enough to give us a box of assorted cord donated to the PAB by Marty Coombs. Marty indicated that we should distribute it among our membership, but we all agreed to use it for projects that will be donated to various organizations. Again, I tried to get the box in my car & take it home, but the rest of the folks were having none of it! (I just can't seem to win???).

The remainder of the evening was spent socializing with fellow knot tyers and an excellent dinner catered by the ALYC. Speaking for myself, I had a thoroughly enjoyable evening and surely wish we could gather in such a setting more often.

On a sad note, Joseph Soanes and his wife will be moving to Petaluma, California by the end of this month. We will surely miss them as Joe is always a big part of our events and activities.

SURREY BRANCH

Gilwell Park Annual Knotting Display and Demonstration

Notes on activities of the IGKT Surrey (UK) Branch – from Peter Goldstone

Spring & Summer 2009 activities have included:-

Our annual Barbecue;

Two days at Birdworld, Farnham, Surrey (a bird zoo) entertaining children with rope-making and basic knotting;

'Rustic Sunday' at the Old Kiln Museum, Tilford, Surrey demonstrating our skills alongside traditional country crafts;

Attendance at the Alton, Hants county show.

Visiting the '**Tenacious**' in the Pool of London. Tenacious is a brigantine sailing ship, the most recently built of 2 'Tall Ships' owned by the Jubilee Sailing Trust. The Trust is a charity providing traditional sailing cruises for a mix of able bodied and less able volunteers augmenting a small professional permanent crew. The equipment & methods of accommodating serious physical challenges are an eye opener!

Our next activities will be a lanyard constructing evening plus our annual support of the 'Gilwell Reunion'. Gilwell Park, Essex is the central training centre of Scouting UK and a campsite embodying much of the history of world scouting. The Reunion weekend is attended by leaders from all sections of scouting, worldwide, who have completed their advanced training & are accordingly members of the 1st Gilwell Park Scout Group. For many years Eric Franklin, a founder member of the Guild & ex-president, ran a knotting information base at the event. The mantle was then carried by Charlie Smith & Nigel Harding. Charlie's 'Master Classes' were legendary & in recent years a group of near neighbours in the Surrey Branch have been proud to maintain the tradition, plying their skills beneath the ancient Gilwell Oak. The base is much appreciated by attendees as it provides a direct link to one of the most fundamental of scout & guide skills. The Surrey Six – a group of knots for the 21st Century - is particularly enjoyed. Fred Parker, Howard Denyer, Peter Goldstone & David Monk hope to join Nigel & continue the scouting tradition.

SPIRIT KNOT TYERS Meeting in South Carolina for the Tallships Race are [l to r]
Bill Hayes, Dan Machowski, Drayton Parker, Liisa Machowski, Cindy and Rick Wilcox

Above: Studying knot-tying are Rick Wilcox and two young students.
Right: Drayton tying the Dahlia Knot and Christy trying something new.

SOLENT BRANCH

Member Don Bellamy of Fareham, Hampshire, UK is reported to be recovering from a second stroke, which he suffered following his latest return from hospital. Don was recovering from his first stroke and had been showing off his skills with knots prior to his return home. Within a week and a half he had suffered from a second stroke on the other side of his body and is now recovering from that unfortunate attack. We all wish him well and are thinking about his progress and indomitable spirit - keep up the good work Don! We miss you and we all wish you well and a full and speedy recovery.
We are currently looking forward to joining our brethren across the pond in New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA in October. Following that meeting we will have our own meeting on October 13th - whew! What a busy time!

SPIRIT KNOT TYERS

North American Branch
Charleston, SC USA
Spirit Knot Tyers
Charleston, SC USA

The Charleston Harbor Festival (http://charlestonharborfest.org), more than lived up to the expect attendance and surpassed that in the level of excitement and sheer heat. With 19 tall ships, representing 11 countries, their crews and a crowd of over 80,000 braved the 95-degree F temps [35 Celsius] over three days in a uniting event of the sea. With whispers of breezes and afternoon thundershowers, the Spirit Knot Tyers pulled together a crew of 12 putting on educational knot demos, making rope and hosting the Tall Ship Crew Challenge Knot contest. Besides our local members, Guild members traveled to South Carolina from two other states to lend a hand and to participate in the all of the festivities. Cindy and Rick Wilcox came from Kentucky and had made plans last year to visit family and attend the event. From Texas, Christy Gurley, who move there from Charleston last year, also planned the trip as a visit as well as to spend some quality tying time.

The group meets monthly and plans are being set for the next two gatherings, the ½ AGM in New Bedford, Mass USA, Oct 9-10 and South Carolina's biggest wooden boat show in Georgetown the following weekend, Oct. 16.

Please contact Dan Machowski (DanMachowski@bellsouth.net) or Skip Still (Skip-Crafts@bellsouth.net) if you are down south and would like to meet or join in any of the events. See photographs on page 41.

WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH

WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH OUTDOOR SUMMER EVENTS

May: Skipton, our first outdoor event of the year on a fine and mild day. We had a good turnout for the stand and plenty of visitors. The organisers who have been doing it for the last three years are very welcoming and helpful. We finished the day in good style with ten members having a meal in a local restaurant.

June: Stainforth. This is a very small event, where we are made very welcome, but it does not have a lot of public interest. The best part of the day was when the Sea Shanty entertainers decided that our stall was a good spot for their second session, and we were able to join in. [Good for you - among my favorite things to do! - Ed]

July: Leeds Waterways Festival. This is a three-venue event and we were on the canal side at Thwaites Mill on a lovely sunny day. There were free boat rides on offer and most of our members managed to take time off for a trip. Very enjoyable.

July: Dewsbury. A regular booking. Only four of us were able to staff this but we had two members on the adjoining stand to share our day with. It was a showery day but we had a reasonable amount of interest. We declined to put a team in for the fastest boat pull, claiming exemption on grounds of seniority (Please can we have some younger members!).

Only one more outdoor event booked, that is in September at Strawberry Island, near Doncaster, then with a bit of luck some of us will be joining the Netherlands branch for their October meeting.

Our usual branch meeting will be on November 15th - All will be welcome.

Knotting Diary and Calendar

GUILD MEETINGS

Half-Yearly General Meeting 2009
Weekend of October 10th/11th, 2009
New Bedford, Mass., USA.

Branch Meetings

Alaskan Branch
Every Wednesday evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E. 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact: Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
1pm,26th September 2009
The Windmill Room of the Abbots Hall Primary School, Danescourt Ave., Stowmarket
Main theme of the meeting will be
"Rings and Circles "
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0)1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

Essex Branch
Contact Donald Woods
Tel: +44(0)1708 229178

French Branch
Contact Graham Maclachlan
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact Peter Willems
Bauer Lanstr. 200c
24939 Flensburg
Germany
Tel: +49 461 73176
Fax: +49 461 7749318
e-mail: peter@fancyworks.de

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

NorthWest Branch
Quarry Bank Mill Styal.
24th-25th October 2009
Christmas Get -to Gether and meal
Sunday 13th December 2009
Contact: Dave Walker (pending until further notice)
Tel: 01244 682117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday of the month (except December)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614-6002

Netherlands Special Meeting
October 31, November 1, 2009
De Hoop & Haven Museum
Rotterdam
Contact: Willeke van der Ham
e-mail: willeke@knopen.ismijnhobby.nl

North American Branch - East Region
Contact: None available at press time
Tel: See handbook

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month,
except July and August
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: 1-310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@yahoo.com

Solent Branch
October 13th, 2009 @ 7:30 pm
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0)23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
7th September 2009
26th October 2009
7th December 2009 (Christmas Social)
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00hrs. Please phone for more details.
Contact: Secretary, Peter Goldstone
+44(0)1483 763054

Sussex Branch
For details
Contact: Andy Dart
Tel: 07720 813802

Sweden
June 27-28
Meeting at Karlskrona
September 19
Meeting at Repslagarmuseet Älvängen
Contact: Olof Nystrom tel. 08 265065
Pille Repmakar'n tel 08 6110144

West Country Knotters
Last Saturday of odd months
September 26th, 2009 @ 1300 hrs(?)
Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
Contact: Richard Hopkins
Tel: 0117 986 7146

West Yorkshire Branch
Branch meeting 15 November
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Deadline Dates

Until further notice, the deadlines for getting material to the Editor are as follows:

For the December 2009 issue	1st of November, 2009
For the March 2010 issue	1st of February, 2010
For the June 2010 issue	1st of May, 2010
For the September 2010 issue	1st of August, 2010

SPECIAL NOTICE

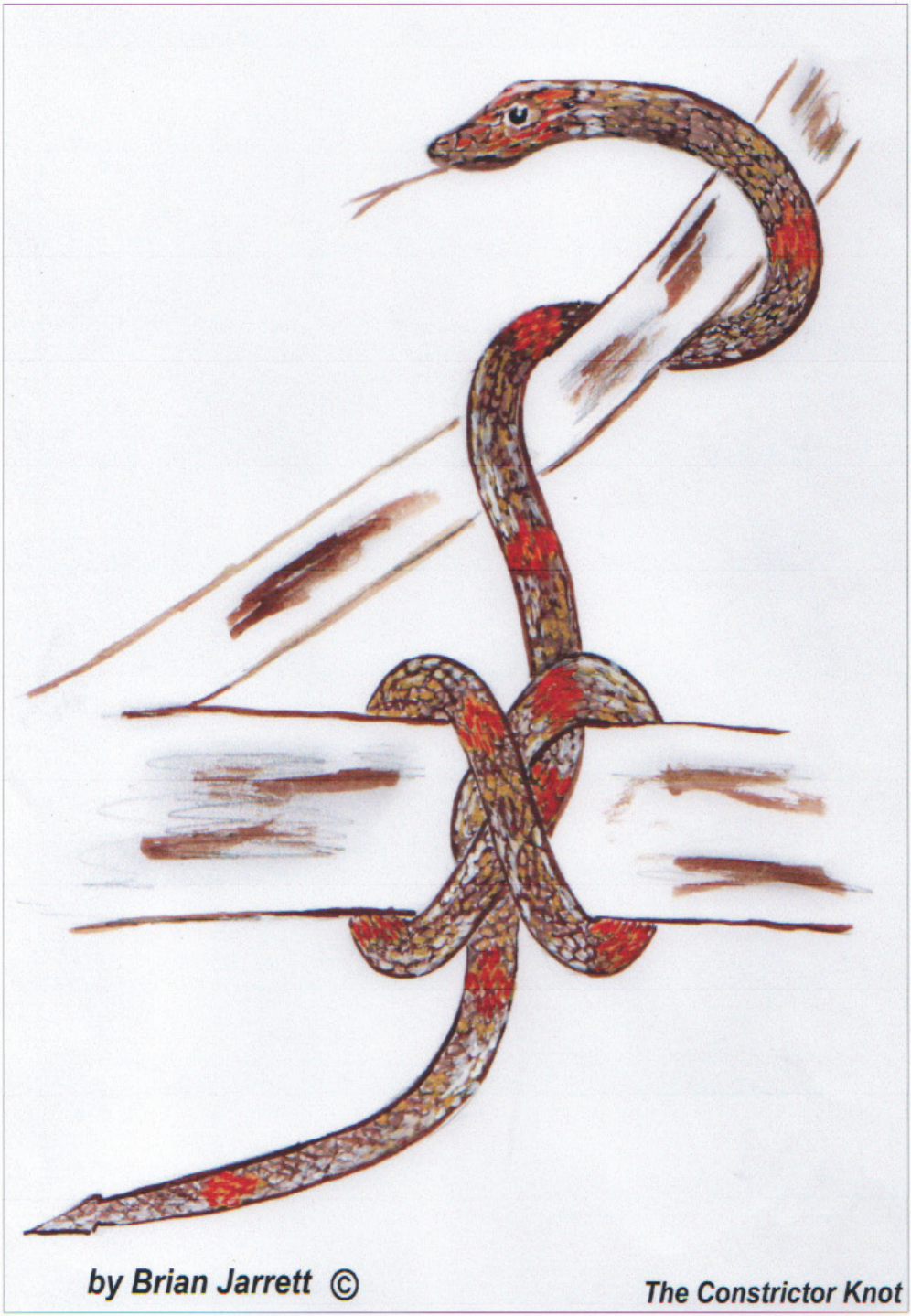
Wanted:

SUPPLIES SECRETARY

to handle sales and distribution of Guild Supplies.

Responsibilities include; receiving requests and supplying quotes for goods; calculating postage; despatching goods with invoice; keeping stock records; holding a working supply of stock.

Candidates would be preferably UK-based, and have access to the internet. For further information, contact the Hon. Secretary



by Brian Jarrett ©

The Constrictor Knot